

# DECISIONS

## A Lent Devotional for 2026



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# INTRODUCTION

**Lent is a 40-day journey of preparing our hearts for Easter.** We cannot fully appreciate the salvation and victory of the Risen Lord without intentionally walking with Him—up to Calvary, through the grave, and only then into His glorious resurrection.

Though Lent spans 46 calendar days, the six Sundays are not counted, as they are days of rest and celebration amid our season of reflection and preparation. All throughout God's journey with His people the number 40 has been of significance. For example, the flood lasted for 40 days (Genesis 7:4), so does the fasting of Moses (Exodus 24:18) and Elijah (1 Kings 19:8); Israel traveled through the desert for 40 years (Psalm 95:10), and they were under Philistine hand for 40 years (Judges 13:1); Jonah prophesies that Nineveh will be destroyed in 40 days if they don't return to God (Jonah 3:4), and of course Jesus goes into the desert for 40 days at the beginning of His ministry (Matthew 4:2).

The number 40 is not an exact number, but a round number of estimation. The ancient world didn't function around wristwatches or fixed schedules. Most people did not even know their exact age! It is therefore more important to look at what *occurred during this time* than the period itself. We will aim to do the same during our time of 40 days. Rather than focusing on the number, we will focus on *how we can draw near to God during these 40 days*.

Our theme for this Lent is **DECISIONS**.

Every decision we make shapes our lives, steering us in one direction or another. As we embark on this 40-day journey toward Easter, let us closely examine Jesus' decisions and how they can guide us to make meaningful, life-giving choices in our own lives.

**Each week**, we will reflect on a key theme: *Purpose, Compassion, Sacrifice, Truth, Trust, and Victory*.

- **PURPOSE** - Jesus decisively embraced His mission, calling us to live boldly for God's purpose.
- **COMPASSION** - Jesus' compassion to outcasts and sinners, calls on us for radical compassion.
- **OBEDIENCE** - Jesus submitted fully to the Father's ways, modeling dedicated obedience for us.
- **SACRIFICE** - Jesus willingly accepted the high cost of love, inspiring us to follow sacrificially.
- **TRUTH** - Jesus spoke unflinching Truth, challenging us to uphold Truth without compromise.
- **TRUST** - Jesus trusted the Father's plan completely, urging us to be steadfast through every shift.
- **VICTORY** - Jesus chose death and resurrection, empowering us to make victorious decisions.

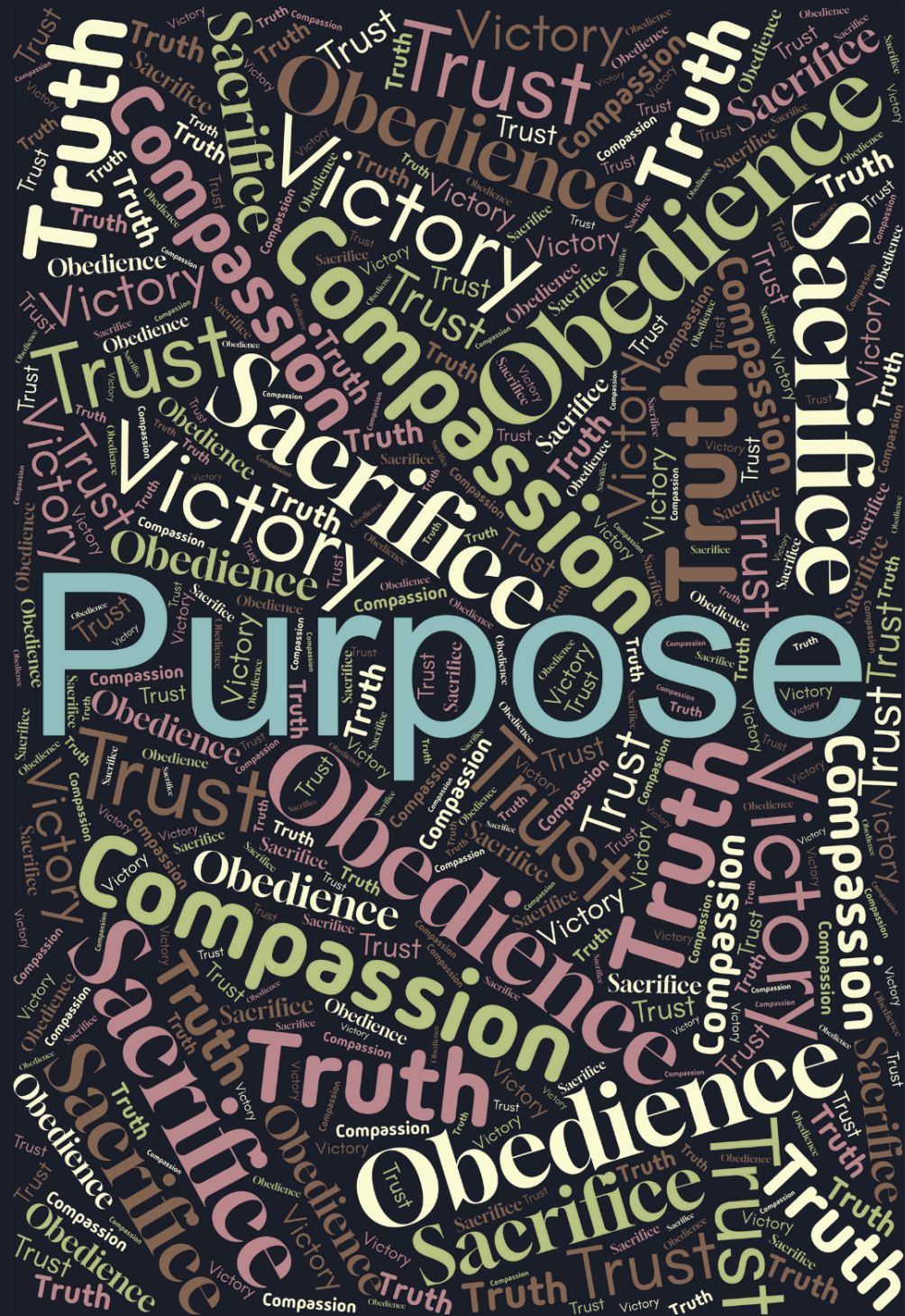
**Each day**, we will pause at a passage from the Gospels and follow this rhythm:

- **READ** - read slowly through the passage of the day
- **REFLECT** - let God's Word soak into your heart
- **NEXT** - make a clear commitment before you move on
- **PRAY** - open your heart and soul to God

**Every Sunday** we reflect on a pivotal **DECISION** Jesus made, paired with the responses of those around Him, inviting us to shape our own decisions.

My prayer is that these 40 days will reshape our **DECISION MAKING** to be far more in alignment with the way our Lord made decisions.

# DECISIONS



## DAY 1 - FEBRUARY 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY

### Purpose-Filled Decisions

#### READ

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to Him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the Mouth of God.’” <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> “If You are the Son of God,” he said, “throw Yourself down. For it is written: “ ‘He will command His angels concerning You, and they will lift You up in their hands, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.’” <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> “All this I will give You,” he said, “if You will bow down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” (Matthew 4:1-10)

#### REFLECT

Every decision we make shapes our lives, steering us in one direction or another. As we embark on this 40-day journey toward Easter, let us closely examine Jesus’ decisions and how they can guide us to make meaningful, life-giving choices in our own lives.

At the start of His ministry, Jesus chose to follow the Spirit into the desert—a place where survival depends solely on God. The devil suddenly appeared, presenting alternatives to tempt Jesus with worldly options, self-reliance, or even the devil’s own promises.

*Yet Jesus stood firm.*

*With each temptation, He chose to follow God’s Word—immediately and without hesitation.*

His steadfast decisions led to a blessed outcome: “Then the devil left Him, and angels came and attended Him” (Matthew 4:11).

Let us commit to immersing ourselves in God’s Word, allowing it to dwell deeply in our hearts as it did in our Lord’s.

May we resist the devil’s traps and remain unwavering in our mission to follow the Father, standing strong in His Word and following its course promptly and confidently.

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, thank You for showing me how to make purpose filled decisions rooted in Your Word. Holy Spirit, guide me to choose wisely when temptations arise that could derail my journey with You. Father, help me let Your Word penetrate my heart, mind, and soul. *Forgive me...*

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## DAY 2 - FEBRUARY 19

### Life with a Spiritual Purpose

#### READ

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the Good News of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” He said. “The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News!” (Mark 1:14-15)

#### REFLECT

Imagine your cousin—someone as close to you as John was to Jesus—is imprisoned for living out their faith with bold obedience.

What would you decide to do?

Many of us might protest the injustice or pour our time and resources into securing their freedom. We might even be paralyzed by fear...

*But what did Jesus choose to do?*

*Jesus honored the spiritual mission* that John had begun: preparing the way for the Messiah so people would recognize Him and His ministry of salvation.

Instead of being deterred or taking a step back, Jesus boldly stepped into His calling, proclaiming the Good News of God’s Kingdom.

He refused to let setbacks, even one so personal, slow Him down.

*Jesus kept His focus* on John’s mission and His own, letting this *spiritual purpose guide His decisions*. He recognized that the Israelites had long awaited the Messiah’s Kingdom, and now, through Him, it had drawn near—though many misunderstood its true nature. Through repentance and faith in this Good News, they could enter this Kingdom, and the time had come to proclaim this News with great spiritual conviction and intentionality.

Moving boldly ahead was the only choice that would continue to unfold a God-glorifying path.

*May we gain such clarity about our own life’s purpose*, allowing it to drive our decisions with unwavering commitment.

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Holy Spirit, reveal my spiritual purpose to me. Lord, strengthen my heart so my decisions consistently reflect Your purpose for my life, undeterred by worldly setbacks. *Father, today I choose to...*

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## DAY 3 - FEBRUARY 20

### Ordinary People Receive Extraordinary Purpose

#### READ

<sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." <sup>11</sup>So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him. (Luke 5:8-11)

#### REFLECT

Jesus' decision to step into Peter's boat and direct him after a fruitless night of fishing led Peter to recognize he stood in the presence of true Greatness. The power of the Lord's nearness drove him to his knees, convicting him of his own sinfulness in the light of Christ's holiness. Peter concluded it would be better for Someone so holy to depart from a sinner like him and leave him to the struggling life he felt he deserved.

Yet how encouraging that Jesus decided to refuse Peter's plea for distance.

Instead, He extended a life-giving invitation, calling Peter to two decisive actions:

- Let go of fear.
- Embrace God's calling.

Jesus chose ordinary fishermen—Simon, James, and John—to follow Him. He made it clear:

*Even ordinary people can live with extraordinary purpose when anchored to Him!*

In radical obedience, they immediately decided to abandon their nets, boats, and livelihoods to follow Jesus unconditionally, trusting His call with their whole hearts.

How do their swift, wholehearted decisions inspire you to respond to Jesus' invitation over your life?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Jesus, I needed to hear today that I do not have to fear when You are in my “boat”. Lord, I praise You for choosing to step into my life and, in my brokenness, staying near enough that I can hear Your voice. *Holy Spirit, help me to believe that even I can have a purposeful life, despite...*

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## DAY 4 - FEBRUARY 21

### Connect our Purpose to God's Kingdom

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, <sup>2</sup>and He began to teach them, saying: <sup>3</sup>"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. <sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:1-12)

#### REFLECT

Jesus chose to challenge the world's view of blessing. In the Beatitudes, He taught His disciples to respond to life's hardships in ways that reflect the *beauty of God's Kingdom*, not the *patterns of the world*. This is how we connect our purpose to His Kingdom and not to ours:

- Depend fully on God rather than self-reliance.
- Rejoice amid suffering instead of avoiding or resenting it.
- Hunger for righteousness with your whole heart, not dividing it with worldly desires.
- Show mercy, pursue inner renewal, and embrace humility rather than chasing personal gain or status.
- Make peace and remain joyful even when insulted, hurt, or slandered for following Jesus—rather than fighting to come out on top.

How does Jesus' redefinition of blessing reshape the decisions you make moving forward?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, align my decisions with the ways of Your Kingdom. Help me seek Your blessings above those the world offers. Lord, forgive me for often pursuing what pleases the world. *Holy Spirit, help me especially to purposely connect this area of my life to Your Kingdom, rather than the world's...*

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## SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22

### Embrace God's Purpose in Jesus

#### READ

<sup>16</sup>He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day He went into the synagogue, as was His custom. And He stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it is written: <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup>Then He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on Him, <sup>21</sup>and He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:16-21)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

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# DECISIONS



## DAY 5 - FEBRUARY 23

### Compassionate Decision to Touch

#### READ

<sup>40</sup>*A man with leprosy came to Him and begged Him on his knees, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.”* <sup>41</sup>*Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” He said. “Be clean!”* <sup>42</sup>*Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. (Mark 1:40-42)*

#### REFLECT

In Jesus’ time, people with leprosy (a term then covering various skin diseases, not just modern Hansen’s disease) were declared unclean by a priest. The condition was often viewed as divine punishment for sin, leading to total exclusion from the community. They had to live outside the city walls, tear their clothes, and cry “Unclean! Unclean!” whenever anyone approached.

*Touch was strictly forbidden*—even by family—due to fear of contagion and harm to the community (though we now know it is rarely contagious with early treatment and curable with multidrug therapy). Leprosy meant complete banishment: no physical contact, no entry into towns, synagogues, or the Temple. Survival depended on alms from a distance.

They were treated as socially dead, with no hope of return.

*Thus, Jesus’ decision to show compassion was completely unexpected.*

Jesus’ decision to reach out and *touch* the leper was utterly scandalous!

Bystanders would have reacted with shock and fear.

*Yet with one touch and a powerful, compassionate command, Jesus healed and restored.*

How does this challenge us to reach out to the marginalized and outcasts in our society—making a decision for radical compassion that effects change and leaves bystanders speechless?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, help me see others through Your eyes. Help me overcome my fears and preconceived assumptions about people in need. Jesus, let me show compassion like You—reaching out to touch the marginalized with the hope and restoration found only in You. *Father, I long to...*

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## DAY 6 - FEBRUARY 24

### Compassionate Healing to Show Jesus' Identity

#### READ

<sup>18</sup>Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup>When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." <sup>21</sup>The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup>Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>24</sup>But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup>Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. (Luke 5:18-25)

#### REFLECT

This passage often highlights the incredible commitment of the friends who carried their paralyzed companion to Jesus for healing—and rightly so, for it moved Jesus' heart.

Yet the deeper power of this miracle lies in Jesus' decision to use it *to reveal Who He truly is*.

Words are just words until they come true.

Jesus first spoke the harder, invisible truth: "Friend, your sins are forgiven." This claim instantly provoked the religious leaders, for only God can forgive sins—and how could anyone prove it had happened?

So Jesus decided to make the *invisible Truth* about Who He actually is...*visible*.

With a simple command—"Get up, take your mat and go home"—the man instantly obeyed.

In that moment, *Jesus' decision proved His words carry divine authority*—and if His words hold God's power, then surely He can also forgive sins!

*Jesus' decisions help us see clearly Who He truly is.*

Do you see Him yet? What will you decide to do next?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Jesus, my Lord, my God, Forgiver of my sins, Healer of my body—I will worship You all the days of my life! *Lord, I commit today to also bring to You...*

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## DAY 7 - FEBRUARY 25

### Compassion at a Sinners' Table

#### READ

<sup>9</sup>As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow Me," He told him, and Matthew got up and followed Him. <sup>10</sup>While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with Him and His disciples. <sup>11</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they asked His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" <sup>12</sup>On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup>But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Matthew 9:9-13)

#### REFLECT

Matthew's tax booth in Capernaum collected tolls on goods crossing the Sea of Galilee or Jordan River. The Greek term covers both customs officials and direct-tax collectors—roles despised as unpatriotic, steeped in ritual uncleanness, and notorious for extortion.

By this time, Jesus was known in Capernaum as a Rabbi, expected to keep His disciples far from such "sinners." Yet Jesus did the most intimate act of identification in ancient culture: He dined at Matthew's house.

The Pharisees rightly noted that this violated multiple purity rules in the Mishnah (Jewish law).

But Jesus decided a Healer must get His hands dirty.

*He chose compassion for sinners, pursuing their healing and opening their eyes to a Father who longs to welcome them into His family.*

For Jesus, the mission was never only for those already serving and sacrificing.

For Jesus, the mission was about *God's family reaching out to those outside and drawing them in.*

How does Jesus' decision to show compassion to sinners challenge you to reach out to those society rejects?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, my Healer, let me never forget the sweet moment when You healed me. Let it fuel me, Holy Spirit, to show compassion to those who are still so very sick. *Father, use me to...*

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## DAY 8 - FEBRUARY 26

### Divine Compassion to a Widow and her Son

#### READ

<sup>11</sup>Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd went along with Him. <sup>12</sup>As He approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup>When the Lord saw her, His heart went out to her and He said, “Don’t cry.” <sup>14</sup>Then He went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” <sup>15</sup>The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7:12-15)

#### REFLECT

In Nain, about 6 miles southeast of Nazareth, Jesus met a funeral procession. For a widow to lose her only son meant utter isolation: no male protector or provider in the ancient world, compounding her loneliness, sorrow, and struggle for survival.

A better word, given the first-century context for “coffin,” is “bier” (the same Greek word can refer to either). The custom was to use an open bier on which the body would lie, wrapped in a shroud. The widow’s intense weeping—fueled by grief and its dire consequences—moved God’s heart. This is the first time in Luke that Jesus is called “Lord,” revealing His divinity (echoing Thomas’ confession in John 20:28: “My Lord and my God!”).

*God’s heart always breaks for the lost and broken.*

Driven by divine compassion, He told the widow, “Don’t cry.”

As with the leper, Jesus touched the bier—a profound breach of ceremonial purity laws.

Jesus decided that *no regulation should ever bar compassion.*

*Compassion must cross boundaries to bring healing.* With a short, powerful command, the son rose to life!

What does it mean to you that God’s heart is deeply moved in your sorrow—and that this sorrow stirs His hand to transformational change?

How does Jesus’ compassionate decision challenge you to reach across cultural boundaries?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, it touches me deeply to know that Your heart and hand move with intentional compassion in my hurt. Lord, speak into my pain. *Holy Spirit, now direct my decisions to...*

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## DAY 9 - FEBRUARY 27

### Compassion Feeds a Crowd

#### READ

<sup>35</sup>By this time it was late in the day, so His disciples came to Him. “This is a remote place,” they said, “and it’s already very late. <sup>36</sup>Send the people away so they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat.” <sup>37</sup>But He answered, “You give them something to eat.” They said to Him, “That would take eight months of a man’s wages! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?” <sup>38</sup>“How many loaves do you have?” He asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” <sup>39</sup>Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. <sup>40</sup>So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. <sup>41</sup>Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then He gave them to His disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup>They all ate and were satisfied, <sup>43</sup>and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. <sup>44</sup>The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand. (Mark 6:35-44)

#### REFLECT

This was a massive crowd—five thousand men, likely twenty thousand with women and children. Like the disciples, compassion stirs us to help, but we quickly turn to money and resources. When those fall short, we often do nothing.

FAITH often requires RISK.

RISK often reveals FAITH.

Jesus’ decision to embrace risk-filled faith not only fed the multitude but left twelve baskets overflowing—a number evoking God’s daily provision for the twelve tribes in the wilderness. With twelve disciples (representing Israel and the new Israel, including us) distributing the meal, the message rings clear: our Lord has a compassionate heart for His people and is fully able to meet every need of every child of His, through all time.

When facing an *insurmountable challenge*, do you see only *obstacles*—or *Jesus standing right beside you*?

When compassion moves you, what might your decisions look like if you dared to test *risk-filled faith*?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Jesus, I repent: too often I forget You are in the room and fixate on my money and resources. Let my compassion be fueled by Spirit-led, risk-filled faith. *Holy Spirit, grow me to...*

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## DAY 10 - FEBRUARY 28

### Radical Compassion brings Radical Change

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly. <sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’ ” <sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” (Luke 19:1-10)

#### REFLECT

Jesus’ meal with Zacchaeus echoes His earlier dinner with Matthew (Day 7). Once again He made the shocking decision to share intimate table fellowship with a despised tax collector, and once again the crowd muttered in disapproval.

Yet one difference stands out: Zacchaeus was not just any tax collector—he was the chief tax collector, wealthy and powerful, overseeing others in a lucrative post on the vital trade route from Jerusalem to the East, going through Jericho. He had grown rich by Roman favor and Jewish resentment. Short in stature and shorter still on friends, he lived in isolation despite his fortune.

When Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus’ home, everything changed.

That single act of radical compassion shattered the walls around Zacchaeus’ heart. He found salvation because Jesus sought him—and then he freely chose radical generosity: half his possessions to the poor and fourfold restitution to anyone he had cheated (far beyond the Law’s requirement of the original amount plus one-fifth).

*Radical compassion produced radical change.*

It really is that simple.

How do Jesus’ decision and Zacchaeus’ response challenge you today?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, I no longer want to settle for “normal” or “usual.” I want to step into radical obedience, radical faith, radical compassion. *Holy Spirit, empower me to...*

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## SUNDAY - MARCH 1

### Radical Compassion brings Radical Examples

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup>At dawn He appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around Him, and He sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup>and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do You say?" <sup>6</sup>They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with His finger. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning Him, He straightened up and said to them, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." <sup>8</sup>Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup>"No one, Sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin." (John 8:1-11)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

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## A word cloud featuring the words 'Compassion', 'Purpose', 'Truth', 'Sacrifice', 'Victory', and 'Obedience' in various sizes and colors, arranged in a circular pattern. The words are repeated multiple times, creating a dense, circular arrangement. The colors include shades of brown, green, blue, and purple. The words are of different sizes, with 'Compassion' and 'Purpose' being the largest. The arrangement is circular, with the words 'Compassion' and 'Purpose' at the top, 'Truth' and 'Sacrifice' on the sides, and 'Victory' and 'Obedience' at the bottom. The words are repeated multiple times, creating a dense, circular arrangement. The colors include shades of brown, green, blue, and purple. The words are of different sizes, with 'Compassion' and 'Purpose' being the largest. The arrangement is circular, with the words 'Compassion' and 'Purpose' at the top, 'Truth' and 'Sacrifice' on the sides, and 'Victory' and 'Obedience' at the bottom.

## DAY 11 - MARCH 2

### Obeying the Sabbath...The Right Way

#### READ

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as His disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to Him, “Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? <sup>26</sup>In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” <sup>27</sup>Then He said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. <sup>28</sup>So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (Mark 2:23-28)

#### REFLECT

The Pharisees accused the disciples of breaking Sabbath law by plucking and rubbing heads of grain—acts they classified as “reaping” and “threshing,” two of the thirty-nine categories of work forbidden on the Sabbath. They had likely been following Jesus, eager to catch Him and His followers in violation.

Jesus defended them by recalling David, who, when hungry, ate the consecrated Bread of the Presence—reserved exclusively for priests. David’s act was far more serious than picking grain, yet human need rightly overrode ceremonial restriction.

But Jesus pressed deeper: the Pharisees’ countless added rules had twisted the Sabbath from God’s merciful gift into a heavy burden. Jesus, with ultimate authority over the Sabbath, set the record straight:

*The Sabbath was made for man...not man for the Sabbath.*

In other words, *the Sabbath exists to serve us*—so that we may...

*refocus,*

*reprioritize, and be*

*renewed* at the start of each week

*to obey the Lord of the Sabbath* with joy and strength.

How can we practically live this out?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord of the Sabbath, help me keep You—and nothing else, not even sacred days—at the very center. Let all my decisions deepen my obedience to You alone. *Holy Spirit, help me to...*

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## DAY 12 - MARCH 3

### Obedience to God's Truth and Sharing it Boldly

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>Now when He saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, <sup>2</sup>and He began to teach them, saying... (Matthew 5:1-2)

<sup>28</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, <sup>29</sup> because He taught as One who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law. (Matthew 7:28-29)

#### REFLECT

On a gently sloping hillside near Capernaum, overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Jesus sat—the customary posture of a rabbi teaching with authority. The natural acoustics of the hill let thousands hear every word without any amplification.

This is the longest continuous block of Jesus' teaching in the Gospels. The crowd was vast and diverse—people from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan—devout Jews, curious Gentiles, religious leaders, and ordinary fishermen alike.

Here the Word of God came with unmistakable authority, power, and startling newness.

Again and again Jesus declared, “You have heard that it was said... but I say to you...”—a level of authority that stunned His hearers, for only God could speak this way about God's own Law.

Jesus' decision to obey the Father completely and proclaim Truth boldly yet with profound kindness left the crowds amazed.

They had never heard anyone teach like this.

May we seek and follow leaders who remain *radically obedient to boldly speak the Lord's Truth with the Lord's grace*.

When was the last time the Truth of our Lord truly left you amazed?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, thank You for our Lord who shared Your truth so clearly that we not only know what to believe, but also see unmistakably Who holds true authority—so we can follow Him alone. *Father, I'm amazed at...*

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## DAY 13 - MARCH 4

### Obeying God's Call Against All Logic

#### READ

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" <sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. <sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him. <sup>17</sup> And a Voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, Whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. (Matthew 3:13-17)

#### REFLECT

John knew it was the greatest privilege of his life to baptize Jesus—yet it felt utterly wrong. He was the servant sent to prepare the way; Jesus was the sinless Lord.

John wanted to protest: "Lord, You have no sin to repent of! You should baptize me!"

But Jesus insisted: "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness."

In other words, both of them needed to *obey the Father's exact plan, even when it made no sense to human logic.*

So John consented. He obeyed the surprising command—and the moment he did, heaven tore open. The Spirit descended like a dove, and the Father's voice thundered, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." John and everyone present were left stunned. No one had expected this.

*We must be careful to not obey God only when it makes sense to us.*

That kind of selective obedience robs us of the breathtaking moments He has prepared.

*Obeying even when His call seems upside-down* often leads to encounters that leave us speechless and in awe of Him.

Is there something God is asking you to do right now that doesn't yet make sense?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, speak clearly to me and give me ears to hear what You want me to do next. Father, help me obey—even when it doesn't make sense—so I don't miss the wonder You have waiting. *Holy Spirit help me now to...*

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## DAY 14 - MARCH 5

### Obedient Withdrawal that Fuels Prayer

#### READ

*<sup>15</sup>Yet the news about Him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear Him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. (Luke 5:15-16)*

#### REFLECT

Crowds constantly pressed in on Jesus. Yet He refused to let popularity turn Him into a mere “wonder-worker.” He wanted to be followed as Savior, Shepherd, and the Door to eternal life—not as a superhero who only fixed earthly problems.

Luke’s little word “often” is huge.

Withdrawing to lonely places and praying was not occasional or optional for Jesus; it was the steady rhythm of His life and ministry—a continuous habit that shaped everything He did.

Even devoted Christians sometimes feel God isn’t hearing or speaking. But we have to ask:

How much noise fills our homes, workplaces, and free moments—relentless, unending noise?

*Jesus deliberately sought silence first.*

In the quiet He could speak to the Father and clearly hear the Father speak back.

In that stillness He knew beyond doubt: “God hears Me!”

Jesus, the sinless Son of God,

obediently chose to withdraw often for prayer—

how much more must we follow His example?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, forgive me for complicating prayer when You gave such a simple, perfect pattern. Your plans always work. *Father, hear me and answer me as I quiet my heart and share with You...*

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## DAY 15 - MARCH 6

### Obedient to the Father's Perfect Schedule

#### READ

<sup>2</sup> But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup> Jesus' brothers said to Him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that Your disciples may see the miracles You do. <sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world." <sup>5</sup> For even His own brothers did not believe in Him. <sup>6</sup> Therefore Jesus told them, "The right time for Me has not yet come; for you any time is right. <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify that what it does is evil. <sup>8</sup> You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for Me the right time has not yet come." <sup>9</sup> Having said this, He stayed in Galilee. (John 7:2-9)

#### REFLECT

At this point Jesus' brothers still did not believe He was the Messiah. Their advice sounded perfectly logical by worldly standards: a huge festival in Jerusalem was the ideal stage to perform miracles and skyrocket His popularity.

But Jesus was not chasing fame.

He was marching to a different drum—God's drum.

He served a higher Kingdom and a higher purpose.

The pressure to follow the world's timetable is relentless. It often comes wrapped in love—from family, friends, or culture—yet it pulls us away from God's perfect schedule.

*Jesus' obedient decision to wait for the Father's timing is deeply challenging.*

This kind of obedience will sometimes disappoint people and make the world frown, but it always glorifies God and stores up eternal reward.

Maybe today is the day to *realign our clocks and calendars with the One* we truly claim to follow.



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, today I humbly place my clock and my calendar into Your hands. Lord, whether I go or stay behind, direct every step. Let Your will, not mine, be done. *Holy Spirit, I need You to...*

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## DAY 16 - MARCH 7

### Obedience Today, Judgement Tomorrow

#### READ

<sup>28</sup>*“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice*  
<sup>29</sup>*and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to*  
*be condemned.* <sup>30</sup>*By Myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for I*  
*seek not to please Myself but Him Who sent Me. (John 5:28-30)*

#### REFLECT

Make no mistake: this world will end. Some will die before that day; some may still be alive when it comes. Either way, life as we know it will cease. That is certain.

Make no mistake: every grave will open. Both the good and the evil will rise, and together with all who are still living, we will stand before the Judge. Nothing will be hidden. No excuses, no spin, no clever lawyers—only us, exactly as we lived, before the One who knows everything.

His judgment will be perfectly just. Eternal life or eternal death will follow.

*The daily decisions we make right now will echo into that courtroom forever.*

How do we live so we do not lose everything—forever?

We live the way Jesus decided to live: “By Myself I can do nothing... I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me.”

Jesus modeled perfect obedience to the Father and showed us how to finish well—eternally well. *He knows the way because He is the Way.*

Decide today to bow before your Lord and live as He did.

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, today I choose the words of my Lord and Savior: "I want to do nothing by myself. I seek only to please You, the One Who sent me and called me to follow." *Lord, my Savior and my coming Judge, when I stand before You, may...*

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## SUNDAY - MARCH 8

### Seeing Jesus Clearly Fuels True Obedience

READ

<sup>1</sup>After six days Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. <sup>2</sup>There He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. <sup>3</sup>Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. <sup>4</sup>Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, I will put up three shelters—one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup>While He was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a Voice from the cloud said, “This is My Son, Whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!” <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” He said. “Don’t be afraid.” <sup>8</sup>When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” (Matthew 17:1-9)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

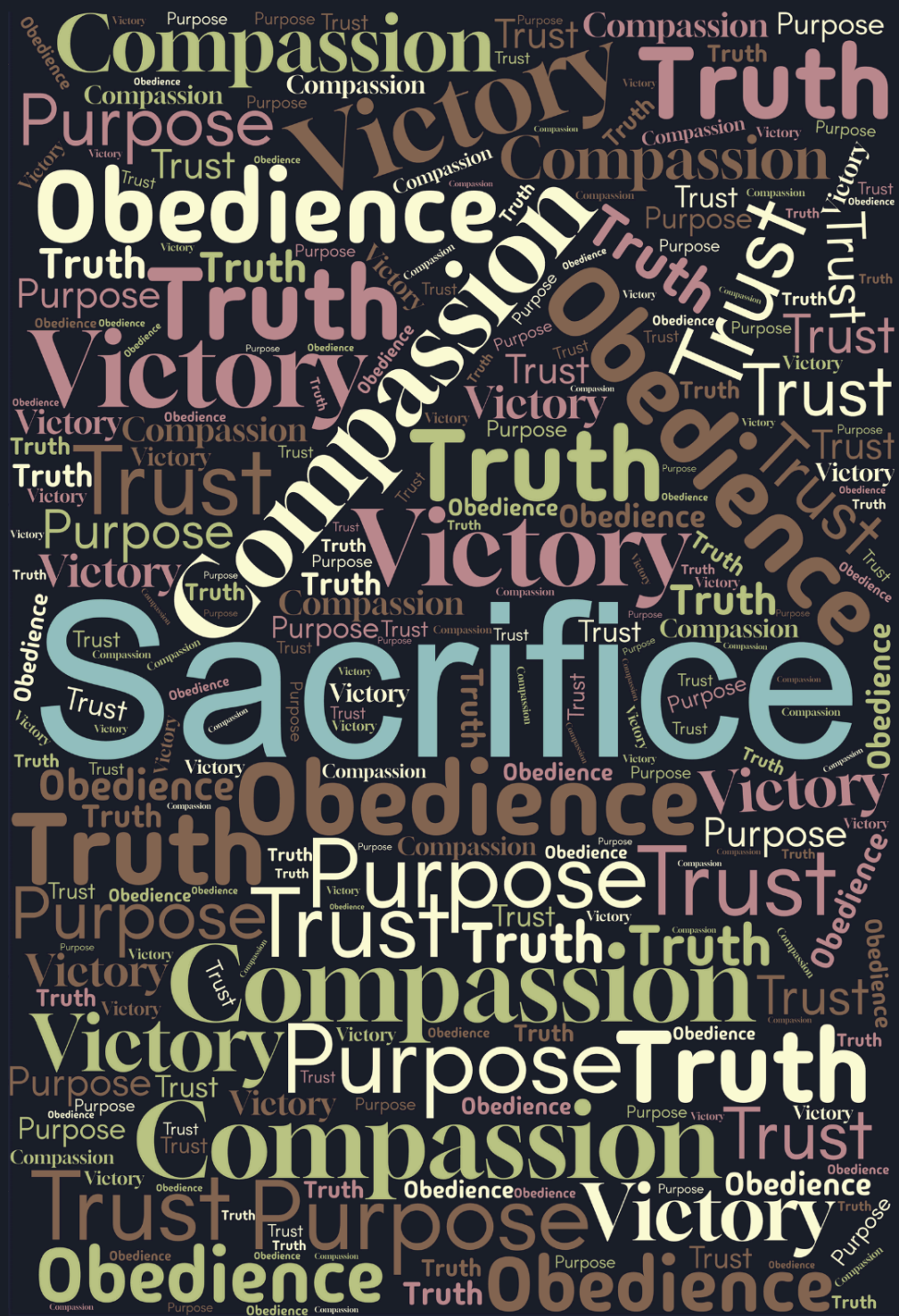
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# DECISIONS



## DAY 17 - MARCH 9

### From His Sacrifice to Ours

#### READ

<sup>22</sup>And He [Jesus] said, “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and He must be killed and on the third day be raised to Life.” <sup>23</sup>Then He said to them all: “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. (Luke 9:22-23)

#### REFLECT

We find peace when we believe the years ahead will be comfortable.

We lose sleep when we know hardship is coming.

Yet our Lord showed us how to live with steady purpose even when He knew from the very beginning that His path would be unimaginably hard.

He arrived on earth fully aware that His ministry would lead to suffering. Suffering from “many things”. Rejection by His own people, false accusations from the very leaders who should have recognized Him, an unjust trial, mockery, flogging, a crown of thorns, spitting, stripping, nails, and one of the most excruciating deaths ever devised.

And then, as God, He knew He would enter the grave. Something we cannot even begin to comprehend...

Why? Because He loves us that much. Because His sacrifice removes our sin as far as the east is from the west.

By leaving heaven, *Jesus willingly signed His own death sentence—so that we could live.*

To follow Him now means we, too, sign a daily death sentence: denying ourselves and taking up our cross for His sake.

*Your Lord sacrificially chased after you until He found you.*

Are you ready to *sacrificially* chase after the broken and the lost *with Him*?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, thank You for sacrificially chasing me until You rescued me. Father, in gratitude I want to live a fully surrendered, sacrificial life following Your Son—no matter the cost. *Holy Spirit, keep me faithful to...*

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## DAY 18 - MARCH 10

### Aim to be a Sacrificial Servant

#### READ

<sup>42</sup>Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>43</sup>Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup>and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup>For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:42-45)

#### REFLECT

This passage has always unsettled me. From childhood we’re told to climb higher, excel in sports, ace exams, rise through the ranks.

The world’s motto is clear: Serve well now so that one day you can lead—and be served.

*Jesus turns the ladder upside-down.*

Jesus calls us to choose the opposite path: *aim to serve, not to be served.*

This is utterly foreign to everything we’ve ever been taught. For Jesus true greatness is found in servanthood. First place belongs to the one who refuses the platform and chooses the towel.

The highest goal is to live as Jesus did:

- To serve, even when you deserve the highest honor and position.
- To serve others, even to the point of death.

What would need to change in your life if, starting today, your greatest aim became *sacrificial servanthood*?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, Your example as the ultimate Sacrificial Servant stands in stark contrast to everything the world shouts at me. I need You—more than ever—to lead me Your way. *Holy Spirit, direct and empower me to...*

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## DAY 19 - MARCH 11

### Recognizing My Sin - Sacrificing My All

#### READ

<sup>36</sup>Now one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, so He went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. <sup>37</sup>When a woman who had lived a sinful life in that town learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, she brought an alabaster jar of perfume, <sup>38</sup>and as she stood behind Him at His feet weeping, she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them. <sup>39</sup>When the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he said to himself, "If this Man were a prophet, He would know who is touching Him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner." (Luke 7:36-39)

<sup>44</sup> Then He turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give Me any water for My feet, but she wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You did not give Me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing My feet. <sup>46</sup> You did not put oil on My head, but she has poured perfume on My feet. <sup>47</sup> Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." <sup>49</sup> The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this Who even forgives sins?" <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace." (Luke 7:44-50)

#### REFLECT

Thinking we're "mostly good" and have little to confess can quietly turn us into Simon. When we downplay our sin, we lose sight of how desperately we need Jesus. Even when He is right there in our house, reclining at our table, we can miss the entire point. We may acknowledge Him, question His choices, or secretly believe we could handle things—spiritually—better than He does.

Minimizing sin leads to a life of debating God, challenging God, and offering Him a polite meal instead of a poured-out heart.

But truly seeing our sin for the ugly, crushing reality it is breaks us. It brings us weeping to Jesus' feet, pouring out tears and our most precious treasures in total, *sacrificial worship*.

How do you currently view your sin?

How might a clearer sight of it shift your heart—and your life—toward deeper surrender?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, I am a wretched sinner. Too often I fail; my sin towers high. I need You—I need You now!  
Forgive me, save me, fill me with Your peace. *Father, all that I am and all that I have...*

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## DAY 20 - MARCH 12

### Jesus' Mirror Calls for Honest Sacrifice

#### READ

<sup>13</sup>*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the Kingdom of heaven in men’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.*

<sup>23</sup>*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. <sup>24</sup>You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.*

<sup>25</sup>*“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup>Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. (Matthew 23:13, 23-26)*

#### REFLECT

Even though we quoted only a few verses, Jesus pronounces seven searing woes in Matthew 23, each one peeling back another layer of hypocrisy among the scribes and Pharisees:

They bar the door to the Kingdom and refuse to enter themselves; they devour widows’ houses while praying long for show; they win converts only to make them twice the children of hell; they twist oaths and blind others to true holiness; they tithe mint, dill, and cumin yet neglect justice, mercy, and faithfulness; they scrub the outside of the cup while the inside remains full of greed and self-indulgence; and finally, they look radiant on the outside yet are full of hypocrisy and death within—like whitewashed tombs.

These seven woes are not just history; they are Jesus holding up a “*mirror*” to every heart that claims to follow Him.

When we dare to look, the reflection asks one piercing question:

*Are we more concerned with rules, reputation, power, and how the world sees us—or with Jesus Himself?*

It is no accident that the very next chapters in Matthew turn to the end times and to Jesus’ own sacrificial death. The mirror of the woes forces us to face the ultimate choice: *To whom and to what are we truly sacrificing*—ourselves to the world and its fleeting rewards, or everything to our Lord alone?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, it is so easy to be deceived by the ways of the world. Forgive me for the many times I have made it about me instead of about You. *Lord, with all honesty I'm looking into Your "mirror", and...*

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## DAY 21 - MARCH 13

### Sacrificing All for Prayer Brings Victory

#### READ

<sup>39</sup>Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. <sup>40</sup>On reaching the place, He said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” <sup>41</sup>He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” <sup>43</sup>An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. <sup>44</sup>And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. <sup>45</sup>When He rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, He found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup>“Why are you sleeping?” He asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” (Luke 22:39-46)

#### REFLECT

Failing a test is never pleasant. We study hard, prepare thoroughly, and give our best because we know the outcome hinges on it when the pressure hits.

Jesus’ example in Gethsemane is vivid and soul-searing. Knowing the horror ahead, He carries the deepest spiritual battle imaginable to His Father: “Father, if possible, let this cup pass—yet not My will, but Yours be done.” In other words, must God Himself endure this brutal death on a cross to save humanity, or is there another way?

In that crushing moment Jesus shows us that sacrificing time, companionship—even the comfort of loved ones—and sleep to cry out earnestly to the Father will always prevail. Only in that costly closeness do we receive the strength to stand when temptation and trial strike.

“Not My will, but Yours be done.” That surrender was forged in sacrificial, earnest prayer.

*Sacrificing to pray never fails to produce victorious faith.*

How is your prayer life at the moment?

What are you willing to sacrifice—time, comfort, sleep, distractions—to draw near to the Father and be ready for whatever test lies ahead?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, Your example in Gethsemane humbles and inspires me. Thank You for the ultimate sacrifice on the cross and for showing me how to sacrifice for prayer so I can stand firm and finish strong, no matter the battle. *Holy Spirit, I need Your help right now to...*

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## DAY 22 - MARCH 14

### A Sacrificial Life Reveals the Truth

#### READ

<sup>14</sup>*It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your King,” Pilate said to the Jews. <sup>15</sup>But they shouted, “Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!” “Shall I crucify your King?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. <sup>16</sup>Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup>Carrying His own cross, He went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). (John 19:14-17)*

#### REFLECT

It was Passover week—the holiest time in Israel’s year—yet a frenzied crowd, egged on by their leaders, shouted the unthinkable: *“Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!”*

All the sacrificed lambs of Passover were meant to open their eyes to the true Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Instead, blinded by lies, rage, and mob pressure, they demanded the death of their own Messiah.

Bound by obedience to the Father and boundless love for the very people rejecting Him, Jesus chose silence. He refused to defend Himself. Instead, He lifted the rugged cross onto His bleeding shoulders and walked the road to Golgotha—crowned with thorns, flesh torn open, leaving a trail of blood.

A horrific sight.

An unimaginable act of love.

The ultimate sacrifice.

That sacrificial choice of Jesus shattered every lie and blazed the Truth into history: He loves us. He is God. He is the Savior.

*The easy road reveals the ordinary.*

*The sacrificial road reveals the extraordinary.*

What will you choose to do next with and for your Lord?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, thank You for showing me how to choose well...how to choose sacrificially. *Holy Spirit, lead me now to...*

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## SUNDAY - MARCH 15

### The Sacrifice that Echoes Forever

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>Now the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some sly way to arrest Jesus and kill Him. <sup>2</sup>“But not during the Feast,” they said, “or the people may riot.” <sup>3</sup>While He was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on His head. <sup>4</sup>Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? <sup>5</sup>It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly. <sup>6</sup>“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. <sup>7</sup>The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have Me. <sup>8</sup>She did what she could. She poured perfume on My body beforehand to prepare for My burial. <sup>9</sup>I tell you the Truth, wherever the Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” <sup>10</sup>Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. <sup>11</sup>They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand Him over. (Mark 14:1-9)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

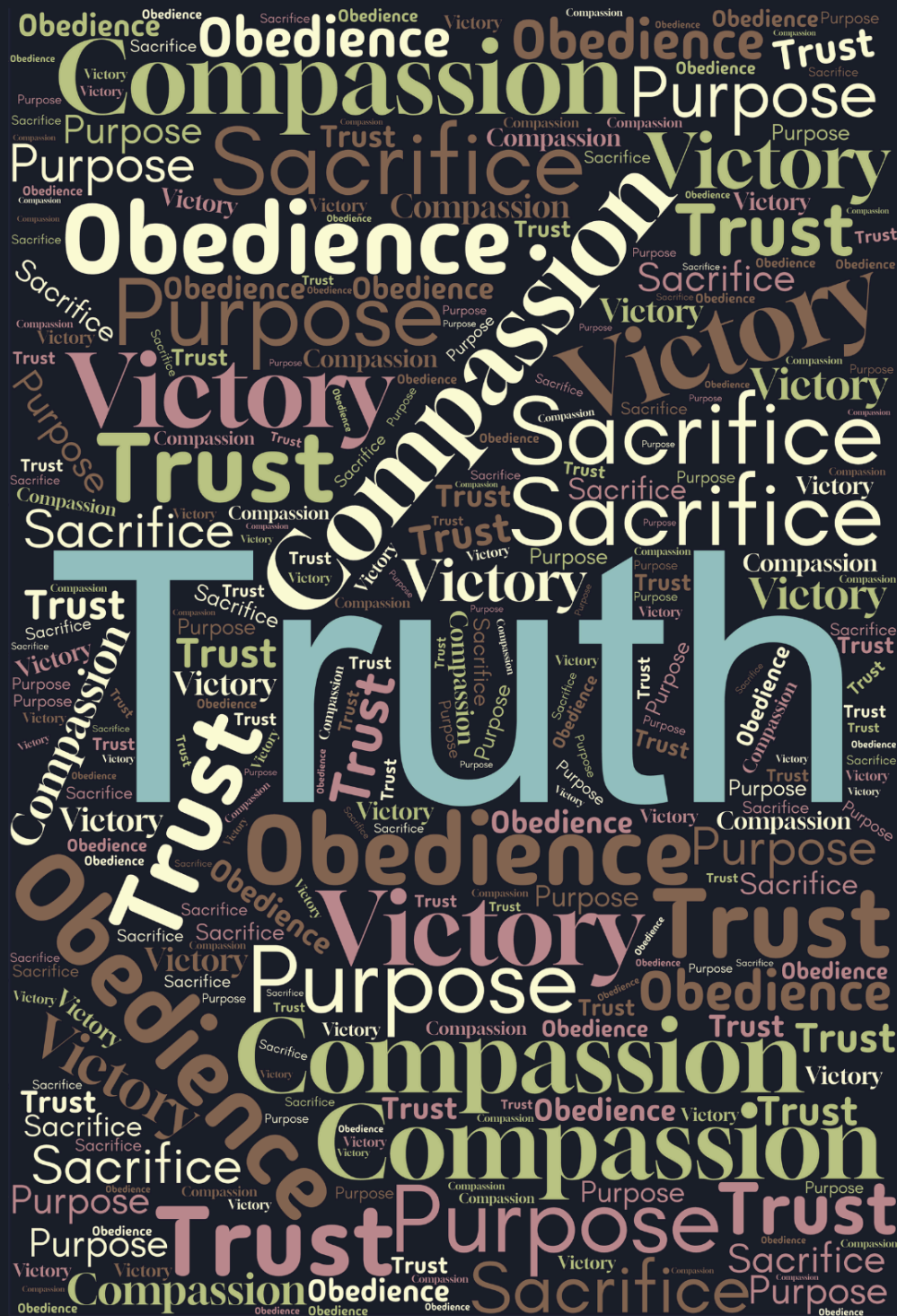
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# DECEISIONS



## DAY 23 - MARCH 16

### A Truth that Truly Sets You Free

#### READ

<sup>31</sup>*To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, “If you hold to My Teaching, you are really My disciples.*

<sup>32</sup>*Then you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.” (John 8:31-32)*

#### REFLECT

Every day the world shouts its own version of “truth” at us, promising freedom if we’ll just buy what it’s selling. Even in Jesus’ day, religious leaders peddled their own ideas as the path to liberation.

But there is only one Truth that actually delivers: the Teaching of Jesus Christ.

It is timeless.

It is non-negotiable.

You can take it exactly as it is, believe it as it is written, and live it as it is meant to be lived.

You find it in Scripture—God’s Living Word.

You understand it through the Holy Spirit—pray, and He will open it to you.

And when you hold fast to it, this Truth does something no counterfeit ever can:

it sets you gloriously, completely free—

*free from sin,*

*free from bondage to the world,*

*free to serve your God with all your heart, overflowing with joy and peace you never dreamed possible.*



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, thank You for Your unchanging Truth, Your life-giving Word that has set me free. *Holy Spirit, help me to...*

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## DAY 24 - MARCH 17

### A Truth that Lights up the Dark

#### READ

*<sup>17</sup>For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. <sup>18</sup>Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the Name of God's One and Only Son. <sup>19</sup>This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of Light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>Everyone who does evil hates the Light, and will not come into the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But whoever lives by the Truth comes into the Light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."* (John 3:17-21)

#### REFLECT

Many believe God sent Jesus only to point out our failures and punish us. The enemy loves that lie, and it's why so many outside the faith picture God as angry and waiting to strike.

The Truth is breathtakingly different. God sent His Son not to condemn the world, but to save it—to rescue every person who has ever messed up, no matter how badly. Jesus willingly took all punishment on Himself so that anyone who turns to Him will never be condemned. That is love beyond comprehension.

Picture Jesus as God's Light stepping into a world of people hiding in darkness, trapped in deeds that hurt themselves and others. They couldn't find the way out because they simply couldn't see.

*Then Jesus arrived.*

Suddenly every corner, every closet, every dark alley of our lives was flooded with light. In that light we see two things clearly: our sin—and His open, loving hands ready to take it away forever while showing us the clear path home to the Father.

Tragically, some love the darkness more than the Light. When the Light draws near, they run deeper into the shadows, hating what exposes them. Their own choice—not a hateful God—becomes their condemnation.

The Truth is simple and glorious: *Jesus lights up the darkness*. He reveals the way out, offers forgiveness, joy, and peace—not judgment.

As His Light shines into every corner of your life, what will you do—run and hide, or step fully into it?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, thank You for stepping into my darkness and showing me the Way back to the Father! *Holy Spirit, if any shadow still lingers in my life, shine Your light there now and...*

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## DAY 25 - MARCH 18

### Jesus' Testimony: Truth on Trial and Proven

#### READ

<sup>31</sup>*"If I testify about Myself, My testimony is not valid. <sup>32</sup>There is another who testifies in My favor, and I know that his testimony about Me is valid. <sup>33</sup>"You have sent to John and he has testified to the Truth. <sup>34</sup>Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. <sup>35</sup>John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light. <sup>36</sup>"I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given Me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent Me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father who sent Me has himself testified concerning Me. (John 5:31-37a)*

#### REFLECT

Every child remembers the moment a parent ended an argument with, "Because I said so—and I'm your dad/mom. End of discussion." Authority alone settled the matter. No further proof was needed.

We wish it were that simple with Jesus. If the One who spoke galaxies into being says something, shouldn't that be enough? Yet people still doubted.

So, though He didn't have to, Jesus graciously stepped inside human rules of evidence (Jewish law required multiple witnesses) and, for our sake, called three unimpeachable testimonies to prove His words are Truth:

1. John the Baptist – the burning lamp *God Himself lit* to point straight to Jesus.
2. The works Jesus did – miracles, healings, forgiveness, and ultimately the cross and empty tomb – all shouting that the Father sent Him.
3. The Father Himself – thundering from heaven, in essence saying, "Because I said so—and I am your God. That settles it."

Jesus never needed these witnesses for His own sake. He called them because He longs for us to catch the Truth, to see, believe, and be saved.

His testimony is more than sufficient.

Do you believe Him yet?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, I hear You—loud, clear, and undeniable. The Truth has never rung truer. *Lord, to You I...*

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## DAY 26 - MARCH 19

### Anchored in Truth, Passion Finds its Way

#### READ

<sup>21</sup>From that time on Jesus began to explain to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and on the third day be raised to Life. <sup>22</sup>Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to You!” <sup>23</sup>Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. (Matthew 16:21-24)

#### REFLECT

Pressure and passion can push us to greatness—or to disaster. The difference is whether we stay anchored to the *Truth ahead of us (the final goal)* and the *Truth beneath our feet (the unchanging foundation we stand on)*.

As the cross drew near, Jesus began preparing His disciples in earnest. He told them plainly: He must go to Jerusalem, suffer at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed—and on the third day rise again.

In the shock of the moment, the disciples heard only the suffering and the death. Peter’s passion erupted: “Never, Lord! This will never happen to You!” His love for Jesus was genuine, yet his vision was clouded. He missed the glorious ending—resurrection and redemption for the whole world—and forgot the path Jesus had repeatedly laid before them: to follow Him means taking up a cross, not pride, not power, not weapons, not a life of luxury, but humble, sacrificial love and service—even to the point of death—so that the lost may be found, served, and saved.

*Passion without Truth is dangerous.*

*Passion guided by Truth ahead and grounded in Truth beneath becomes unstoppable for God’s glory.*

What Truth are you clinging to right now? How is it shaping your reactions when emotions run high?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Holy Spirit, I can be just like Peter—passionate but blind. When the heat rises, keep my eyes on the Truth ahead and my feet on the Truth beneath. Lord, steady me the way You steadied Peter. *Holy Spirit, I need You to...*

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## DAY 27 - MARCH 20

### The Truth that Cannot be Buried

#### READ

<sup>27</sup>*My sheep listen to My Voice; I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup>I give them Eternal Life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My Hand. <sup>29</sup>My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's Hand. <sup>30</sup>I and the Father are one."*  
<sup>31</sup>*Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him. (John 10:27-31)*

#### REFLECT

In the Old Testament, when God descended—believed to come from the highest heaven—the earth itself trembled: thunder, lightning, thick smoke, fire, trumpets, earthquakes. Only a handful of people, perhaps twenty in all (Moses, Elijah, a few prophets and high priests), ever came close to a face-to-face encounter.

Then Jesus steps into our world and says something that must have sounded utterly insane: "My sheep hear My voice... I give them Eternal Life... no one can snatch them out of My Hand... I and the Father are one."

He presents God no longer as distant thunder on a mountain, but as a Shepherd who knows His sheep by name, carries them safely through death itself, and holds them in hands so strong that nothing—not even Satan—can ever pry them loose. And in one breathtaking breath, Jesus declares those Hands are both His and the Father's. Notice how carefully He weaves the metaphor:

in verse 28 He says: "no one can snatch them *out of My Hand*,"

in verse 29 He says: "no one can snatch them *out of My Father's Hand*."

*This Truth changes everything:* we now live in the unbreakable grip of our Shepherd, our Lord and God.

Some embraced this Truth and fell at His feet in worship.

Others heard the same Truth and reached for stones to bury it—and Him.

*The Truth outlived the stones. One day those very stones will testify against all who tried to silence it.*

What will you do with this Truth today—embrace it or fight it? With whom will you share it?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

My Shepherd, my Father, my Jesus—let me hear Your Voice clearly today. Hold me fast, carry me close, and use me to tell others the Truth that sets them free. *Holy Spirit, I'm longing to...*

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## DAY 28 - MARCH 21

### Truth That Thrills and Truth That Transforms

#### READ

<sup>36</sup>While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup>They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? <sup>39</sup>Look at My Hands and My Feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” <sup>40</sup>When He had said this, He showed them His Hands and Feet. <sup>41</sup>And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup>They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup>and He took it and ate it in their presence. <sup>44</sup>He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.” <sup>45</sup>Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (Luke 24:36-45)

#### REFLECT

We have every reason to be thrilled about Jesus: He left heaven for us, healed the broken, welcomed the outcast, spoke Truth like no one ever had, became the final sacrifice, made us holy, opened the grave, conquered death, and is now preparing a place for us with Him forever.

Who wouldn't be excited?

The disciples certainly were. When the risen Jesus suddenly stood among them, they were overwhelmed with “joy and amazement.” Yet Luke tells us, “they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement.”

*Excitement alone wasn't enough.*

Jesus knew that to truly believe, own, and be transformed by the Truth, they needed more than goosebumps—they needed understanding. So He did something just as miraculous as rising from the dead: “...He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.”

*Excitement is wonderful, but understanding is what anchors it.*

Are you excited about the Truth? Great! Now it is time for *deeper understanding*.

Today is the perfect day to invite the Holy Spirit to do for you what He did for the disciples—open your mind to grasp the Scriptures.

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, I am thrilled by all You have done—thank You! *Now, Holy Spirit, help me to...*

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## SUNDAY - MARCH 22

### Wisdom to Uphold the Truth

#### READ

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Him in His Words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know You are a Man of integrity and that You teach the Way of God in accordance with the Truth. You aren't swayed by men, because You pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is Your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap Me? <sup>19</sup>Show Me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought Him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and He asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" <sup>21</sup>"Caesar's," they replied. Then He said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left Him and went away. (Matthew 22:15-22)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

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A large word cloud graphic. On the left side, the words 'D E C I S I O N S' are arranged vertically in a large, bold, light blue font. The rest of the image is filled with a dense collection of words in various sizes, colors (including shades of green, purple, brown, and white), and orientations. The most prominent words are 'Obedience', 'Sacrifice', 'Truth', 'Purpose', 'Compassion', and 'Victory', which are repeated multiple times. The words are arranged in a way that they overlap and flow together, creating a complex visual texture.

## DAY 29 - MARCH 23

### Trust in the Face of Trials

#### READ

<sup>27</sup>*“Now My heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your Name!” Then a Voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” (John 12:27-29)*

#### REFLECT

When trials hit, we have two choices.

*Many of us fix our eyes on the trial itself.* Our hearts grow troubled, our minds race for escape routes, and stress, anxiety, and fear quickly move in.

*There is however another option...*

Jesus faced the greatest trial imaginable—the cross—and His heart was troubled too. Yet instead of pleading, “Father, save Me from this hour,” He answered with complete trust:

“No—it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name!”

*He chose to look past the suffering to the One who held the purpose.* Instead of pleading for rescue, He entrusted Himself completely to the Father and asked only that God’s name be glorified through it all.

The Father answered from heaven: “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

In other words: I have already revealed Myself through You, and I will do it again—through the cross and the empty tomb all will see My glory once more!

*Jesus proved that trust in the God Who stands behind the trial brings peace and strength in the trial.*

Why settle for frantic fear when we can choose courageous trust?

How will you face your current trial—staring at the storm, or looking to the Father Who is greater than the storm?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, I'm weary from anxiety and fear in the middle of my trials. Thank You for showing me Your way—trust instead of panic, surrender instead of escape. *Holy Spirit, help me...*

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## DAY 30 - MARCH 24

### Even a Dog Trusts its Master

#### READ

*“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going.” (John 14:1-4)*

#### REFLECT

A missionary friend who loves dogs told me this:

A dog has only one desire—to be with its master. It doesn’t matter if the house is small or plain; the dog is absolutely convinced that one minute inside with the master is better than anything the outside world could ever offer. It will whine at the door, curl up on the mat, and wait patiently, never doubting that the master will soon let it in.

*A dog’s trust never wavers.*

Yet so many of us live with troubled hearts—anxiety soaring, stress quietly killing. That is not the life Jesus wants for us. His remedy is not expensive vacations, the latest gadget, fine dining, or trendy meditation with candles and oils. It is far simpler and infinitely better:

TRUST in God. Trust in Jesus. Trust in the Lord as the Way to a forever destination with our God, a house with sufficient room for us all in His eternal presence!

*Even a dog gets it: being with the master is the best!*

*Surely we can trust our Master even more!*

Jesus is inviting you: let go of your own plans, your own “house,” your own striving. Trust Him completely. Follow the path He has made to the Father’s house and step into His presence—forever.

That kind of trust drives out every trouble and fills your heart with His perfect peace.

Why hold on to fear?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, no more waiting outside. Today I choose the inheritance You have prepared for me. I place my full trust in You alone, so that Your peace may guide my every step along Your Way to the home You promise. Father, I'm coming Home! *Holy Spirit, ...*

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## DAY 31 - MARCH 25

### Trusting the Father's Protection

#### READ

<sup>13</sup>"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them. <sup>14</sup>I have given them Your Word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. <sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by the Truth; Your Word is Truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (John 17:13-19)

#### REFLECT

Soldiers do not win wars by never engaging the enemy, or by retreating when things get tuff. They beat the enemy by fully engaging, by fighting with superior protection and weaponry.

We are in a real war: a spiritual battle against the evil one for our souls and others' souls.

In His final hours, Jesus prayed a *warrior's prayer* for us (John 17):

- That we will not retreat.
- That we remain so filled with His joy that even our enemies cannot steal it.
- That we will not become like our enemies, but rather win our enemies over.
- *That we will fight relentlessly, trusting the Father's perfect protection.*
- That our weapon, the Truth, His Word, will defeat the father of lies.
- That we neither flee the battlefield nor be overcome by it, but advance boldly with the Good News, clothed in His own holiness.

*Jesus didn't evacuate us from the battlefield—He entrusted us to the Father's unbreakable protection.*

We have nothing to fear.

With the Father as our General and Jesus as our Captain, the victory is already secured.

Are you ready to step into the battle with unwavering trust and courageous boldness?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, thank You for this incredible warrior's prayer over us! We trust Your protection, we love You, and we are honored to be sent just as You were sent! *Father, help me...*

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## DAY 32 - MARCH 26

### Fight or Trust

#### READ

<sup>47</sup>While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With Him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup>Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the Man; arrest Him.” <sup>49</sup>Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. <sup>50</sup>Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him. <sup>51</sup>With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>52</sup>“Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup>Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” (Matthew 26:47-54)

#### REFLECT

God’s plan for us is often not the one we would have chosen.

The way He chooses to get us there is often not the route we would have taken.

When things don’t go our way, it’s tempting to look for shortcuts, force a different outcome, *or even pick a fight—with people around us, or sometimes with God Himself.*

From the beginning God had mapped out that Jesus would bring salvation to the world—offered freely to all who receive it by faith—a redemption that would forever change history.

God also determined that the only path to that salvation would lead through Jesus’ arrest, unjust trials, and an excruciating death.

That night the disciples faced a clear choice: *trust the Father’s painful path... or fight it.* Some reached for the sword, with very good intentions.

Jesus shows us that *God’s way, even when it looks like defeat, is always the best way.*

We can trust it—completely, even when it hurts and makes no sense.

So what are you facing right now? Is it time to keep fighting... or is it time to trust the Father?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, I'm exhausted from fighting. Today I choose to surrender my will to Yours. *Holy Spirit, help me...*

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## DAY 33 - MARCH 27

### Words or Trust

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup>“Are You the King of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. <sup>3</sup>The chief priests accused Him of many things. <sup>4</sup>So again Pilate asked Him, “Aren’t You going to answer? See how many things they are accusing You of.” <sup>5</sup>But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. (Mark 15:1-5)

#### REFLECT

Proverbs 17:27-28 says, “A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even-tempered. Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue.”

Proverbs 29:20 says, “Do you see a man who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Proverbs is packed with warnings to *guard our mouths* and *speak with restraint*.

The Book of James goes even deeper in 3:2, “We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, *he is a perfect man*, able to keep his whole body in check.”

In that moment before Pilate, Jesus proved once again that *He alone is that perfect Man*—the only One who can *fully control His tongue* (and everything else).

Walking close to the Father’s heart means learning when to speak and when to trust Him with the outcome...in silence.

*Think about it:*

How many times have our words only made things worse?

How often have we immediately wished we could pull them back?

Maybe it’s time to trust the Father more...and say a little less.



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, I want to trust You more and speak less. Teach me, like Jesus, to know when silence is the wiser choice. *Holy Spirit, help me...*

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## DAY 34 - MARCH 28

### Trusting the Father Stimulates Forgiveness

#### READ

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified Him, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up His clothes by casting lots. (Luke 23:33-34)

#### REFLECT

There are plenty of purely human reasons to forgive:

- Holding a grudge poisons your own heart and steals your peace.
- Forgiveness can make you look noble and improve your reputation.
- It might open doors—socially, professionally, or financially.

On the cross, in unimaginable agony, Jesus forgave the very people driving the nails.

Why?

Because His entire life—right to the last breath—was built on absolute trust in the Father.

He trusted that the Father is good, sovereign, and always at work, even when people act in blindness and cruelty.

Jesus saw their hatred and ignorance and still said, “They don’t know what they’re doing.”

*Lack of trust in the Father’s plan breeds resentment and retaliation.*

*Complete trust in the Father’s plan releases forgiveness.*

When I really believe God is in control—that His purposes will triumph no matter how badly I’m hurt, betrayed, slandered, or destroyed—then I can let go.

*I can forgive because I trust the Father’s way will prevail anyway.*

What will you choose to do next?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, I want to forgive as You have forgiven. Father, I want to let go of unforgiveness. *Holy Spirit, help me...*

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## SUNDAY - MARCH 29

### Trusting Scripture

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup>saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to Me. <sup>3</sup>If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." <sup>4</sup>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup>"Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your King comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.' " <sup>6</sup>The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup>They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. <sup>8</sup>A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup>The crowds that went ahead of Him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" <sup>10</sup>When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" <sup>11</sup>The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." (Matthew 21:1-11)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

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# DECESSIONS



## DAY 35 - MARCH 30

### Join or Resist the Victorious One

#### READ

<sup>15</sup>On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup>and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. <sup>17</sup>And as He taught them, He said, “Is it not written: “ ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” <sup>18</sup>The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill Him, for they feared Him, because the whole crowd was amazed at His teaching. (Mark 11:15-28)

#### REFLECT

We love dedicating new church buildings: choirs, ribbons, prayers, and a huge celebration meal. Yet within a year (sometimes within months) we start acting as if the building belongs to us instead of to Jesus. We forget: this is not our private club; it is the Father’s house, and we belong to Him.

That day in Jerusalem, Jesus walked into exactly the same problem, only worse.

Pilgrims had traveled for days, even weeks, bringing their last coins so they could offer a sacrifice and be right with God again. But the religious system had turned the courtyard into a profit-driven market. Exchange rates were rigged, prices were grossly inflated, and the poorest could no longer even afford the cheapest offering—a pair of doves. In other words, the very place that was supposed to reconnect people to God had become the biggest barrier standing in their way.

Jesus would not tolerate it...

He flipped tables, freed the doves, stopped the commerce, and declared, “This is My Father’s house!” He tore down every obstacle so that anyone could come freely to God. He even went further:

On the cross He became the final, perfect Lamb, removing every barrier forever.

That day in the temple, people had only two choices: *Resist the Victorious One... or join Him.*

The religious leaders chose resistance. The crowd chose amazement and followed Him.

What will you choose today?



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for tearing down every barrier between me and the Father. *Father, from now on ...*

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## DAY 36 - MARCH 31

### Victory Secured in the Counselor

#### READ

<sup>5</sup>*“Now I am going to Him who sent Me, yet none of you asks Me, ‘Where are you going?’* <sup>6</sup>*Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.* <sup>7</sup>*But I tell you the Truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.* <sup>8</sup>*When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:* <sup>9</sup>*in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me;* <sup>10</sup>*in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see Me no longer;* <sup>11</sup>*and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. (John 16:5-11)*

#### REFLECT

Winning one battle against temptation feels incredible.

Surviving a financial crisis, healing a marriage wound, or walking free from an old life of sin — those moments taste like pure victory!

But staying victorious day after day, year after year?

That’s where many of us start to struggle.

*Jesus knew we could never stay victorious alone.*

So He didn’t just win the war on the cross and walk away—He sent His Spirit to live in us and keep us victorious every day. The Holy Spirit warns us before we sin, keeps us right with the Father, and reminds us the enemy is already defeated—so we never need to fear the Judge.

He is our Counselor, turning Christ’s victory into our daily life... and using us to lead others into the same triumph.

*You’re not fighting for victory. You’re fighting from victory—with the victorious Counselor inside you.*

How does it feel to know Jesus made an unbreakable Plan for you to secure Victory in Him forever?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Jesus, thank You that You didn't leave me by myself. Thank You Holy Spirit for making it possible for me to stay Victorious in and through You! *Counselor, help me to...*

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## DAY 37 - APRIL 1

### A Victorious Servant

#### READ

<sup>4</sup>So He [Jesus] got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. <sup>5</sup>After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around Him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup>Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." <sup>8</sup>"No," said Peter, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with Me." <sup>9</sup>"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup>For He knew who was going to betray Him, and that was why He said not every one was clean... <sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13:4-11, 14-15)

#### REFLECT

Who would ever imagine the King of kings, the Son of God, God Himself, on His knees washing filthy feet? In that culture, with open sandals, unpaved roads, and animal droppings everywhere, this was the lowest, most humiliating task—always left for the least important servant.

No wonder Peter cried out, "Lord, You shall never wash my feet!"

Peter had to learn what we still struggle to grasp: *the true Victorious One wins by serving, not by being served* (Mark 10:45). This *upside-down victory* touches hearts like nothing else. When we stoop low in genuine, humble service, people stop in their tracks and ask, "Why would you do this for me? This isn't how the world works!" In that moment the door swings open to show them a glimpse of the Kingdom of God breaking into this world's kingdom.

*Yet Jesus was doing far more than cleaning dusty feet that night.* As He told Peter in v. 7, "Later you will understand." Only after the cross and resurrection, with the Holy Spirit's help, did they finally see: unless His blood washes us, we have no part with Him (v. 8). Judas had clean feet that evening... but still a dirty heart (vv. 10-11)!

To serve like Jesus means loving people in the lowliest, most practical ways—and always pointing them to the One Who can *wash both their feet and their soul*.

So... how have you been serving so far? How does Jesus want you to serve starting today?

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, daily I long to walk more fully in Your ways! *Lord, show me how to go and serve my...*

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## DAY 38 - APRIL 2 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

### Victory Through His Body

#### READ

*<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and His apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the Kingdom of God." <sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, He gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the Kingdom of God comes." <sup>19</sup>And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me." <sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you. <sup>29</sup>And I confer on you a Kingdom, just as My Father conferred One on Me, <sup>30</sup>so that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:14-20, 29-30)*

#### REFLECT

Think of the most life-changing words you've ever heard: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.", "I now pronounce you husband and wife.", "It's a boy!", "You got the job!"

Now listen to the King of heaven speak these words over you at the table:

"I confer on you a Kingdom, just as My Father conferred one on Me... so that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingdom... and sit on thrones..."

Speechless yet?

You have been invited to the most exclusive, most glorious banquet in history—and you're not just a guest. You're family. You're royalty. You're a co-heir with Christ.

And the price for your invitation? The highest ever paid: His body broken; His blood poured out. Sealed that night in the first Holy Communion. Re-sealed every time we take the bread and cup.

Child of God, if you have ever felt worthless, insignificant, or small, let these words shatter every lie forever:

*You are infinitely valued. You are eternally welcomed. You are irreversibly destined for a throne.*

When you receive His body and blood again, hear Your Lord whisper:

"This is for you. *The victory through My Body is yours. The Kingdom is yours. Forever.*"

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, I am speechless... For too long I have believed so many lies. *My King, help me to...*

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## DAY 39 - APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY

### Victory on the Cross

#### READ

<sup>28</sup>Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup>When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.

<sup>35</sup>The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. (John 19:28-30, 35)

#### REFLECT

My dad always taught me, “Son, start well and finish well.” That’s how you have victory in life—not just starting things with a big bang, but persevering and actually finishing strong. Too many people start and never see it through... and victory slips away.

Jesus started His ministry perfectly defeating the devil in the wilderness through prayer and fasting.

On the cross He finished perfectly. We read that “all” was now completed—not just some of it, not most of it, but everything. Every prophecy about His life and death was fulfilled. With calm, divine certainty He could say with His final breath, “It is finished.”

He gave His all. He even gave up His Spirit—something we as humans will never fully comprehend about our Lord and our God!

*Our Lord finished well.*

Everything the Father asked of Him was done. Everything He needed to give for you and me was given. Salvation—our punishment taken, our debt paid—was accomplished.

John writes this so we may believe: “His testimony is true... and he testifies so that you also may believe.”

Do you believe this? After all Jesus went through for us—to the very end—how will it end for us if we reject this Truth? Let’s not choose wrong.

*Victory on the Cross = Eternal Victory for you!*

Choose right. Believe it.



## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Lord, You gave Your everything to the very end so I could have everything forever with You. I'm humbled, grateful, and ready to serve You to my last breath. *Father thank You for...*

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## DAY 40 - APRIL 4 - HOLY SATURDAY

### Victory in His Death

#### READ

<sup>51</sup>*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.* <sup>52</sup>*The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.* <sup>53</sup>*They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.* <sup>54</sup>*When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God!"* (Matthew 27:51-54)

#### REFLECT

The moment Jesus dies is the moment our debt is fully paid.

*The moment Jesus dies there is Victory over sin.*

The moment Jesus dies is the moment direct access to God is restored.

*The inside of the temple testified to this Victory:*

The thick veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place—ripped from top to bottom. No longer only the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement ("Yom Kippur"). Now every child of God may boldly enter the very presence of the Father, forever.

*Outside of the temple* an earthquake testified to this Victory:

Tombs shook, dry bones came to life as prophesied by Ezekiel 37, and testified to Jesus' Victory!

*At the foot of the cross* a whole group of crucifiers, including one of their leaders, testified to this Victory:

"Surely He was the Son of God!"

*Victory in His Death!*

For forty days you have walked with our Lord. Testimony after testimony.

The moment for a final decision has come.

*What will day 41—and every day after—look like for you?*

## NEXT

*I would like to...*

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## PRAY

Father, Son and Spirit, thank You for letting me walk so closely with You these forty days. *My God, help me as I walk into day 41 to...*

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## SUNDAY - APRIL 5 - EASTER

### VICTORY OVER DEATH!

#### READ

<sup>1</sup>Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup>So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" <sup>3</sup>So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup>Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup>as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup>Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup>(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples went back to their homes, <sup>11</sup>but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup>and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup>They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." <sup>14</sup>At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>"Woman," He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said, "Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that He had said these things to her. (John 20:1-18)

## REFLECT

May this help you prepare for Sunday's sermon:

- What did you learn from this passage?

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- What else stirred in your heart?

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## PRAY

Lord, I thank You for what You have already spoken to me as I prepared for Sunday's Message. Help me to learn even more as I listen to Your Message about embracing Your purpose for the world in Jesus. Father, bless Your servant who will bring Your Message to me. *Help me Lord...*

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## NEXT

After listening to Your Message, Father, *I would like to...*

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## **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

JESUS

YOUR DECISIONS

COMPEL ME TO CHOOSE

The Father's Purpose to be my purpose

Radical Compassion to all

Obedience to God's Way above my way

Sacrifice instead of self preservation

Unflinching Truth without compromise

Unwavering Trust in shifting times

A Victorious Life rooted in

YOUR VICTORY

JESUS

Dedicated to my parents, Nic and Sarie de Wet

A special thank you to my wife for proof reading and her unwavering support

A special thank you to the staff of Dayspring Wesleyan Church

A special thank you to the team of One Plus God Ministries

*Feel free to reach out*

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**WESLEYAN CHURCH**  
REACH | GROW | WORSHIP | SERVE

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If you need to have further conversations about your journey with our Lord

If you have any questions about the Gospel of John

If you have a specific prayer request

Please reach out to us

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Dayspring is a growing and worshipping faith community driven by the hope of reaching new disciples of Jesus. These disciples should become transforming agents who serve God and His Word using our mission verbs, Reach, Grow, Worship and Serve.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Following the example of Jesus, we convey value to all people in every phase of life.

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Sunday services at 9:30 & 11:00 am

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